

February



Winsford Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1953.

NORTHWICH :

W. HOBSON & SON, LTD., PRINTERS.

Members of the Urban District Council of Winsford.

1953.

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor MRS. O. O. BELLAMY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor L. JACKSON

Chairman of the Health Committee:

Councillor T. BRATT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee:

Councillor MRS. O. O. BELLAMY, J.P.

Members of the Health Committee:

Councillor R. G. Barton, J.P.

„ J. H. Booth
„ W. E. Dickinson
„ J. Jackson
„ H. Johnson
„ H. Lunt
„ F. Mellor, M.M., J.P.
„ G. Morgan
„ W. F. Newall
„ Wm. Stubbs
„ P. G. Tipple
„ J. N. Wilson, C.C.

Winsford Urban District Council.

Health Report for 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Winsford
Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1953.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,094 acres
Population — Registrar-General's latest estimate of population (mid-1953)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,860
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,933
Rateable Value (1953)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£58,973
Sum represented by a penny rate (1953)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£233 19s. 4d.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General:—

		Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	{ Legitimate ..	201	118	83	{ Birth Rate per 1000 of the esti- mated resident population	16·56
	{ Illegitimate ..	12	4	8		
					After adjustment by the Comparability Factor	16·39
Still Births	{ Legitimate ..	6	4	2	{ Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	36·19
	{ Illegitimate ..	2	2	—		
Deaths..		137	68	69	Death Rate per 1000 of the esti- mated resident population ..	10·65
					After adjustment by the Comparability Factor	10·86
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—						
	All infants per 1000 live births					14·08
	Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ..					14·92
	Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ..					—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)						24
„ „ Acute Poliomyelitis (all ages)						—
„ „ Measles (all ages)						—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)						—

The following table compares the main statistics for 1953 with the years 1942-1952:—

Year.	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tubercu- losis
1942.	11,230	18.78	13.53	37.91	17	5
1943.	10,850	16.95	13.82	21.73	20	5
1944.	10,760	17.47	14.21	79.78	16	9
1945.	10,720	16.13	14.64	17.34	16	6
1946.	11,300	20.00	11.50	22.12	10	6
1947.	11,640	22.85	14.26	33.83	22	6
1948.	12,050	19.33	13.19	21.45	23	5
1949.	12,100	18.92	12.81	34.93	19	3
1950.	12,490	17.22	12.58	27.90	19	3
1951.	12,770	16.91	12.92	18.51	21	2
1952.	12,820	16.38	10.92	19.04	23	6
1953.	12,860	16.56	10.65	14.08	24	3

CAUSES OF DEATH — 1953

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	2	2
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough...	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	2	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	4	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus...	1	—	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	4	6	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	11	17
18. Coronary disease, angina	20	9	29
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	—	1
20. Other heart disease	11	9	20
21. Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
22. Influenza	—	2	2
23. Pneumonia	—	1	1
24. Bronchitis	5	—	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis...	1	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	12	22
33. Motor vehicle accidents...	—	1	1
34. All other accidents	2	1	3
35. Suicide	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
TOTAL	68	69	137

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(A) Provided by the District Council.

(1) Staff.

W. S. Slater, M.B. Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health, Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich, Cheshire.	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts, the County Council and the North and Mid- Cheshire Hospital Man- agement Committee).
Clerical Staff.	1 person (whole-time).	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts).
- - - -		
W. W. White, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.	Chief Sanitary Inspector, Over Hall, Winsford.	(Winsford Urban Dis- trict Council only).
T. H. Rogerson, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.	Additional Sanitary Inspector.	-do-
Miss H. Oakes	Cert. Shorthand- Typist.	-do-

(2) Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Winsford Urban District Council, proved adequate during the year. In addition, this Service has co-operated in the transport of the samples twice monthly from this area. Details of the samples and specimens are given later in the report.

(3) Environmental Services.

Details of the other Services, e.g. Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Winsford Urban District Council, are recorded later in this report.

(B) Isolation Hospital Services.

Davenham Isolation Hospital, under the North and Mid-Cheshire Hospital Management Committee provided Hospital treatment for the area's infectious cases and during the year admitted a total of 238 patients, 8 of which came from the Urban District of Winsford.

The proposal of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board to convert this hospital for maternity purposes was considered by the Council towards the end of the year.

(C) Provided by the County Council.

The Cheshire County Council have officers discharging duties in the Winsford Urban area under the following Services:— School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, including Milk Food Sales, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Paediatric, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services, Speech Therapy, Residential and Temporary Accommodation, under the County Welfare Services.

**(D) Provided by the Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee
(under the auspices of the County Council)**

The Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee provided the following Services:—

(a) Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes.

The work done during the year 1953 in the Winsford Urban District is detailed as follows:—

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Pre-School Children treated	...	...	...	...	123
School Children	...	...	...	...	8
Re-immunised	...	...	...	...	133
Total				...	264

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Pre-School Children treated	...	...	...	...	49
School Children	...	...	...	...	7
Total				...	56

Vaccination against Smallpox.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	35
1—5 years	...	...	...	...	...	2
School Children	...	...	...	...	...	
Adults	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total				...	39	

The protective treatments against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox remain a free service under the National Health Service Act.

(b) Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service.

The service provided in the area continued to deal with the Winsford Urban cases expeditiously and without serious complaint throughout the year.

(c) Prevention of Illness — Care and After Care.

Nursing requisites and after-care equipment were loaned for the use of the sick and needy in a number of homes during the year.

(d) Domestic Help Service.

Domestic Helps have been provided during 1953 in 26 households in the Winsford Urban District. The kind of cases assisted included old age, confinement and tuberculosis, etc.

(E) Family Planning.

The Family Planning Clinic has been held twice monthly and it is expected that in 1954, weekly meetings will be necessary. During the year, 168 married women from Winsford and the adjoining districts attended for specialist's advice.

The Clinic remains controlled locally by an active team of lady volunteers, working under the general guidance of the Family Planning Association.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The water supply generally is furnished in bulk and detail by the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board. This supply during 1953 has been satisfactory, both as regards quality and quantity, as the bacteriological reports on 35 samples amply show.

In addition, ten samples of water taken from various Winsford properties, including two farms not connected to a mains supply, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Four of the samples were reported upon satisfactorily, but the remaining six, which were taken from the two farms, were adversely reported upon. With the co-operation of the local Water Board, one of the two farms now has a main's supply.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—I am indebted to Mr. P. Heaton, the Surveyor and Engineer of the Council, for the following statement:—

“The main sewage disposal works on the East and West banks of the lower flash to the South of Winsford bridge have functioned well and satisfactorily during the year, despite damage from subsidence on the Wharton side, for which the necessary remedial measures have been taken.

An important new main sewer has been completed under loan sanction from the Ministry of Health. This is a new sewer from Wharton Schools to a point near Station Road via Ledward Street. The pre-existing sewer was defective and over-loaded. This new sewer now enables us to avoid pollution in the brook from Wharton School to the river, about which there had been previous complaints.

Further sewerage schemes are still necessary in Swanlow South and Littler Lane.

In the Swanlow South area, improvements have already been made by laying of new outfall drains and provision of dip pipes, etc., in the existing tank. The possibility of further improvements at a minimum expense is being examined, it being clear that loan sanction for this will not be forthcoming. Two small localised schemes seem to offer possible solutions.

The same remarks apply to the sewage disposal at Littler Lane.

On account of delay in obtaining ministerial sanction to loan, a temporary sewerage tank and filter have been prepared for the new housing estate in Whitegate village. (This is an estate bought and developed by the Council and sold to private developers).

If this had not been done, houses would have been completed and ready for occupation without drainage outfall."

Closet Conversion.—The progress of the work of converting pail and privy closets during the year can be summarised as follows:—

i.	Total number of pails and privies requiring conversion at the commencement of the year	...	...	226
ii.	Total number of Statutory Notices served during the year	...	...	2
iii.	Total number of conversions completed during the year	...	...	6
iv.	Total number of conversions for which Statutory Notices have been served during the year, and upon which work was commenced, or is expected to commence, shortly	...	...	nil
v.	Total number of pails and privies requiring conversions at the close of the year	...	...	220

The Surveyor reports that further large scale progress in this direction is dependent upon the extension of the sewerage service in many parts of the town, and this question is under review.

Licensed Camping Sites.—There are five camping sites in the district, accommodating approximately 100 movable dwellings. Three of these sites are situated on land near to and overlooking the River Weaver, the remaining two being in the Whitegate part of the district.

Canal Boats.—No canal boats are now registered with the Council.

Two inspections have been made in regard to minor repairs, which were remedied forthwith.

Destruction of Rats and Mice.—This service is administered through the Surveyor's Department of the Council, which employs one man full-time on this work.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are no common lodging houses in the district.

River Pollution.—There is no known pollution of the river in Winsford.

Swimming Baths.—The Council's open-air swimming baths have been maintained in good condition. A close supervision of the water's quality is being maintained with tests three times daily.

In addition, three samples submitted to the Laboratory for bacteriological examination, proved satisfactory.

Recreational Fields and Open Spaces.—It has been decided by the Council to develop a new open space in Wharton, amounting to $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent.

The general question of the provision of open spaces will be dealt with more fully in the draft Town Planning Map, which is in course of preparation.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

(Based upon a Statement made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Nature of Inspections made	Num- ber.	Number of Notices served		Result of Service of Notices.			
		Statu- tory.	Infor- mal.	Notice compli- ed with	Remai- ning in hand.	Prosecutions	
						Institu- ted	Pend- ing
1. Dwelling Houses (general inspection)	497	3	40	36	7	..	..
2. Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. ..	59	2	3	5	..	..	..
3. Privy Middens, Earth Closets, Peat Pails, Cesspool Privies..	31	2	5	5	2	..	..
4. Cesspools	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. House Drainage	252	38	10	48	..	..	..
6. Ditches, Watercourses	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Offensive Accumulation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Keeping of Animals	3	..	1	1	..	..	..
9. Offensive Trades	12	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. (a) Slaughterhouses (Public) ..	1076	..	3	3	..	..	..
,, (Private)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Other Places where food is produced or sold	287	..	20	19	1	..	..
11. Dairies	38	..	8	7	1	..	..
12. Factories with Mechanical Power	49	..	6	5	1	..	..
Factories without Mechanical Power	27	..	2	2	..	..	..
Other Premises under the Act (including works of Building)	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Outworkers' Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13. Ashbins	23	3	7	10	..	..	..
14. Butchers' Shops	33	..	23	20	3	..	..
15. Overcrowding	19	..	..	..	..	..	..
16. Places of Amusement	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
17. Verminous Premises	17	..	..	..	..	..	..
18. Water Closets	16	..	..	..	..	..	..
19. Water Supply	16	..	1	1	..	..	..
20. Shops	26	..	2	2	..	..	..
21. Miscellaneous	24	..	..	..	..	..	..
22. River Boats	2	..	1	1	..	..	..
23. Infectious Disease	10	..	28	28	..	..	..
24. Interviews	493	..	..	..	..	..	..
25. Sampling :—							
Milk	9	..	22	22	..	..	..
Water	8	..	9	9	..	..	..
Ice Cream	14	..	14	14	..	..	..
	3060	48	205	238	15	..	..

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories without Mechanical Power	13	27	2	—
Factories with Mechanical Power ..	53	49	6	—
Other Premises	3	5	—	—
Total	69	81	8	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness.. ..	8	8	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	12	11	—	1	—

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

During the year, 98 permanent houses were erected. This brings the total of post-war dwellings erected to 671 permanent and 50 temporary houses.

Total Number of Houses and Sites.

Site.	Houses Pre-War	Constructed Post-War.
Grange Lane and Meadow Bank	56	—
Park Avenue	40	—
Gladstone Street, Woodford Lane and Moss Bank	50	—
Crook Lane	12	—
Seaton Street, Hewitt Drive and Beckett Avenue...	36	—
Siddorn Street, Overway, Coronation Avenue, &c.	50	—
Kingsway, Hill Street, Massey Avenue and Prefabricated Bungalows	42	52
Dene Site	—	526
Greville Drive and Lodge Drive	—	20
Greville Estate	—	122
Special Bungalow for Paraplegic Ex-Service Man	—	1

Twenty-three permanent houses have been built privately during the year under review, and a total of seventy-five since the end of the war, as compared with 671 permanent ones built by the Council.

Further Housing Estates. — The surveyor reports that the Council has decided to develop the area between Grange Lane and Delamere Street for long term housing development. An area of approximately 100 acres is being acquired.

The table below outlines the main housing activities of the Council in administering the Housing and Public Health Acts:—

I.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	335
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	868
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	23
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those re- ferred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	201

II.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	86
--	----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 12 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	4
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	45
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices	45
(a) By Owners	15
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	30
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	22

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—There are now six local milk distributors and these can be classified as follows:—

Retail trade from local dairies	3
Retail trade of bottled pasteurised milk from motor vehicles	2
Retail trade of bottled pasteurised milk from shop premises	1

The licences held by these distributors under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 and 1950, are as follows:—

Licence to use the Special Designation “Tuberculin Tested”	2
Licence to use the Special Designation “Tuberculin Tested” (Pasteurised)	4
Licence to use the Special Designation “Pasteurised” ...	4
Licence to use the Special Designation “Accredited” ...	nil

No supplementary licences are now held by any distributors trading in the district.

Numerous visits have been made to these dairies during the year, and dairymen have been advised on various technical matters associated with retail dairying. These traders are also kept informed of new legislation affecting the distributive side of the trade whenever it is issued by the appropriate Ministries.

Eleven samples of milk retailed in the district by local distributors were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for cleanliness tests, and also in the case of pasteurised milk for tests on the efficiency of the heat treatment. Seven of the samples of raw milk were also tested by animal inoculation for the presence of tubercle bacilli. The reports on these 18 samples are as follows:-

Methylene Blue Test for Cleanliness

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Ungraded Raw Milk	4	—
Tuberculin Tested Raw Milk ...	4	—
Accredited	1	—

Phosphatase Test for Heat Treatment

Pasteurised	2	—
--------------------	---	---

Animal Inoculation

Ungraded Raw Milk	4	—
Tuberculin Tested Raw Milk ...	2	—
Accredited	1	—

(b) **Ice Cream.**—Only three new applications for the sale of ice cream were received during the year and these were for the retail sale of wrapped products.

There are now 49 premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice cream.

Many routine inspections and advisory visits continue to be made, and past efforts and perseverance in attempting to achieve a high standard of hygiene in the trade are now being rewarded.

Regular samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue Test and the results of these tests are tabulated below.

Comparison with the year 1952 illustrates the progress in the standard of hygiene over a twelve-month period.

Provisional Grading.	No. of Samples.	Percentage 1953.	Percentage 1952.
1	13	92.14%	90.32%
2	1	7.86%	6.45%

(c) **Food Premises.**—The routine inspection of food premises and attempts to improve the standard of food hygiene have continued throughout the year. In catering establishments and other food preparation premises, impromptu talks aided by illustrated posters and other descriptive literature were given to kitchen personnel. Careless handling in food preparation and ignorance of the simple facts of food hygiene are often the cause of food poisoning, and these dangers can be minimised if the essential points are made clear to the individual food handler at his or her place of work. Clean personal habits are particularly important and the various “Do’s” and “Don’ts” associated with food hygiene

were impressed upon these workers. An efficient method of washing up is one of the more commonplace duties which is often neglected, so supervisors and proprietors of canteen and cafe kitchens have been advised on the use of suitable chemical agents for the cleansing and sterilisation of crockery and other utensils. Owners have been notified of any improvements of a structural nature which could be made in matters affecting the handling or preparation of food.

Since the detailed survey of industrial canteens was undertaken, various improvements have been made at many of these premises in the town. Work was commenced in the construction of a canteen at the C.W.S. Bacon Factory to replace the premises which have been used for this purpose since the factory commenced operation in 1937. The existing canteen is far too small to accommodate the number of employees using it, both kitchen and dining room space being very inadequate.

The plans of this new canteen provide ample kitchen working space, together with many facilities to ensure the hygienic preparation of food.

Messrs. Colin Stewart Ltd. have also provided new canteen premises for their staff and employees at Wharton Hall. This canteen is fully equipped with the necessary fitments to ensure that a good standard of food hygiene can be maintained.

Ninety-six premises in the town are registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation, manufacture or sale of food, and these premises are classified as follows:—

Registered premises for the sale of prepared meats, etc. ...	32
Registered premises for the sale of fried fish	14
Registered premises for the process of tripe dressing (Offensive trade)	1
Registered premises for the manufacture or sale of ice cream	49

There are 163 various food premises in the town, which can be classified as follows:—

General Groceries and Stores, including 3 Outdoor Beer Licences and 22 retailing wrapped ice cream ...	55
Premises with bakehouses and shops selling bread, confectionery and groceries, including 2 cafes and 6 retailing wrapped ice cream	13
Licensed premises, including 4 holding Catering licences ..	14
Premises selling sweets and confectionery, including 9 retailing wrapped ice cream	19
Fish and chip shops, including 1 retailing wrapped ice cream	9
Green Grocers, including 3 selling wet fish and 3 retailing wrapped ice cream	14
Butchers' Shops	15
Industrial Canteens	10

School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

(d) **Meat.**—Meat inspection again became an important Public Health duty, there being a central Ministry of Food abattoir and a C.W.S. Bacon Factory within the Urban area. The abbatoir caters for a population of approximately 65,000, embracing Winsford and adjoining districts.

125,422 pigs were killed at the C.W.S. Bacon Factory during the year and the following figures give the average monthly percentage of whole carcasses, part carcasses and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Whole carcasses	...	...	...	0.12%
Part carcasses	...	...	...	0.04%
Plucks	...	...	...	3.15%
Entrails	...	...	...	2.52%
Heads	...	...	...	2.32%
Livers	...	...	...	0.43%
Lungs	...	...	...	0.23%
Kidneys	...	...	...	2.51%
Leafs	...	...	...	0.02%

Diseases of Animals Acts.—Twenty carcasses were examined in connection with the operation of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. The entire carcasses and organs of 14 were condemned, the remaining 6 were passed less any part carcase and offal which was surrendered.

During the year, 52 pigs, 1 cow and 1 sheep were notified as suspected cases of Anthrax under the provisions of the Anthrax Order, 1938.

1,345 Swine Fever contacts were sent to the C.W.S. Bacon Factory for slaughter under the provisions of the Swine Fever Order, 1938. One of these pigs was condemned.

Cysticercus bovis.—Twenty cases of *Cysticercus bovis* infection, the cystic stage of the human tapeworm *Taenia saginata*, were discovered during routine meat inspection at the local Ministry of Food Abattoir.

The routine examination for the detection of this parasitic disease was commenced four years ago at the instigation of the Ministry of Food, and during that period 213 cattle, or 1.77%, were found to be infected. This complaint remains very sporadic in its appearance and invariably affects the better class of cattle, but a reduction in incidence is now becoming noticeable. The thorough inspection of all cattle in abattoirs throughout the country must have had a considerable effect in helping to eliminate this loathsome parasite, with a consequent reduction in the number of human infections.

The cysts, in varying stages of viability and degeneration, were found in three different anatomical regions, including one case in which the infection was generalised, the cysts being distributed throughout the carcase musculature and too numerous to count. Carcases with minor infections are consigned to cold storage for the prescribed period of 21 days at 18°F., and when this treatment has terminated, they are then re-allocated for manufacturing purposes. The generalised cases are condemned.

The following, based upon a statement by the Meat Inspector, Mr. White, is a summary of the Carcases inspected and condemned during the year:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed	1,087	1,635	712	9,672	127,157
Number inspected	1,087	1,635	712	9,672	127,157
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	4	23	46	22	132
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	225	325	13	609	2,693
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with disease other than Tuberculosis... ..	21.02%	21.28%	8.28%	6.52%	2.22%
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	6	42	1	—	77
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	145	416	—	—	6,506
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with Tuberculosis	13.77%	28.01%	0.14%	—	5.18%

(e) **Other Foods.**—Under the “Unsound Food Provision”, the undermentioned articles of food were found to be unfit for consumption and condemned:—

Article of Food.	Weight.			Cause of Condemnation.
	lb.	ozs.		
89 tins of assorted meat ...	211	12½	...	Damaged and Decomposed
159 „ „ vegetables ...	163	4	...	„ „ „
34 „ „ Fish ...	8	2	...	„ „ „
1 box of cured cod fillets...	21	0	...	„ „ „
1 tin frozen egg ...	14	0	...	„ „ „
136 tins assorted milk ...	126	1	...	Fermentation and Moulds
1 box loose dates ...	19	0	...	„ „ „
3 tins assorted jam ...	6	0	...	„ „ „
200 tins assorted fruit ...	215	13½	...	Hydrogen Swells
7 tins assorted soup ...	4	14½	...	Decomposition and Moulds
1 box tea ...	60	0	}	Heavily contaminated with Methylated Spirit
5 boxes sponge mixture ...	30	0		
2 „ pepper ...	1	8	...	...
2 boxes sausage... ..	104	0	...	Souring
1 leg of pork ...	24	0	...	Fracture
Pork Trimmings ...	126	0	...	Bruising and Decomposition
Imported frozen Beef ...	380	0	...	Bone Taint
Total ...	1,515	7		

The amount of meat, offals and other foods condemned was:—

Beef	...	70,318 lbs.	Veal	...	2,179 lbs
Pork	...	5,382 „	Mutton	...	2,149 „
Other Foods		...	1,515 lb. 7½ oz.		

A total weight of 36 tons, 8 cwts., 0 qtrs., 7 lbs., 7½ ozs.

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Winsford Urban District during the year 1953:—

Nature of Sample	Number obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Baking Powder	1	—
Baked Beans in Tomato Sauce ..	1	—
Butter	1	—
Blancmange Powder	1	—
Castor Oil	2	—
Cooking Fat	1	—
Cheese	1	—
Cream (Sterilised, Tinned)	1	—
Ginger (Ground)	1	—
Glycerine	1	—
Gravy Browning	1	—
Jam (Raspberry)	1	—
Jelly (Table)	1	—
Margarine	1	—
Meat Pudding	1	—
Meat Paste	2	—
Milk	12	2
Milk (Condense, F.C., Sw.)	1	—
Mustard	1	—
Olive Oil	1	—
Paraffin (Liquid)	1	—
Pepper (White)	1	—
Sauce	1	—
Vinegar	1	—
Total ..	37	2

Particulars of Samples not up to Standard.

No.	Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1.	Milk (Channel Islands).	12.5% deficient in fat.	Retail sale of pint bottle. Retailer purchased the milk ready bottled from a trader in Sandbach. Full particulars sent to Ministry of Food, in accordance with instructions contained in Circular M.F. 8/48.
2.	Milk	3.3% deficient in fat.	Retail sale of pint pottle by same retailer as No. 1, but he bottled the milk as purchased loose from a producer. No action was taken as the deficiency was so small.

(f) **Food Poisoning.**—No cases of Salmonella or typhoid infections were notified during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases was low, with the exception of measles, as may be gathered from the following table:—

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1953.

DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	1	1
Measles	84	—
Pneumonia	1	—
Whooping Cough	7	2
Diphtheria	1	1
Erysipelas	1	—

Cases occurring in age groups 5 years and under, and over 5 years:—

DISEASE.	5 years and under	Over 5 years
Scarlet Fever	—	1
Measles	58	26
Pneumonia	1	—
Whooping Cough	4	3
Diphtheria	—	1
Erysipelas	—	1

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15-25 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 „ ...	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35-45 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	—

During 1953, 8 cases were admitted to and 8 discharged from Sanatoria.

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:—

1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
83	97	103	93	96	90	92	93	92	72	74	59

The Chest Clinic at the Victoria Infirmary, Northwich, examined a total of 220 contacts to cases of tuberculosis during 1953, including residents of the Winsford Urban District, as follows:—

No abnormal defects	...	...	215 cases
Doubtful findings	...	...	3 „
Primaries not notified	...	...	2 „

B.C.G. Protection against Tuberculosis.—2 B.C.G. vaccinations were reported to have been given to new-born babes at the St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

(3) MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

A further report on the mass radiography survey, which was carried out in Winsford during the period 25.11.52 to 15.12.52, has now been received.

The results of the survey can be summarised as follows:—

- (1) Of the 2,466 persons examined, 2,366 (95.9%) were classified as normal; 84 (3.4%) were classified as showing some non-tuberculosis abnormality, e.g., bronchitis, new growth, heart disease, etc.; the remaining 16 (6.4 per 1,000) were classified as tuberculosis, but all of them were regarded as inactive.
- (2) The report on the survey finishes with the following comments:—
 - “(a) The industrial response rate (72.1%) was satisfactory, showing a slight improvement on the rate obtained on the previous visit in 1950.
 - (b) The response from the public was not quite so good as the 1950 figure, in spite of the fact that publicity was equally maintained. The survey was carried out a month later, during the winter and very near to Christmas. This may have had some effect on the figures.
 - (c) As regards cases of *active* pulmonary tuberculosis, the survey was entirely unproductive, although there was a fairly high number of examinees. It cannot be assumed that it is a true indication of the incidence of active pulmonary tuberculosis in the area”.

(4) DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

The disinfection of 7 premises was carried out during the year as follows:—

For Infectious Diseases 7 houses

The disinfestation of 17 premises was carried out in connection with vermin.

I would like to say, in closing this report, how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1954.

N.B.—The removal of the combined Divisional and M.O.H. Office from Whitehall to Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich, took place on 25th September, 1953,

